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April 24, 1952
3:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Donald R. Wilson, National Commander
American Legion

Dr. Allen, Director, PSB
Charles E. Johnson, Executive Officer, PSB

COPIES: Dr. Allen (Orig.)
Mr. Norberg
Mr. Walter Pforzheimer, CIA ✓
Mr. Barnes
Mr. Johnson
PSB Files (2)

Mr. Wilson called on Dr. Allen for the purpose of familiarizing himself, so far as possible, with the mission, role and organization of PSB and to seek advice as to how the American Legion could be of assistance to PSB. Dr. Allen briefed Mr. Wilson, using the press release, the "role" paper and the organizational chart. Mr. Wilson stated that it was difficult for the Legion to know just how it could be most useful without having more information, which information Mr. Wilson said he realized that the Legion could not and should not have. He referred to the Miami resolution of last August as being the general sentiment of the Legion even though certain "hot-heads" in the Legion wanted to go much further. This resolution supported the greater use of psychological weapons and urged the strengthening of the Government's machinery in connection therewith. Dr. Allen stated that he could not see at this time how the Legion could do more than give general support, particularly during the period leading up to the November elections. Mr. Wilson concurred in this view.

Mr. Wilson said his term expires in August and that he will undertake to brief the incoming National Commander on PSB matters and arrange for his introduction to PSB. He also indicated his desire to have his Director of National Security (The American Legion) and the Chairman of the National Security Committee of the Legion in regular contact with the PSB staff and expressed the desire to have some liaison channel with PSB. He believes that they have already been cleared for security by the Government and he will verify this fact and inform us of their names.

Mr. Wilson

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Mr. Wilson expressed curiosity as to what our major target areas were and Dr. Allen generalized with respect to this matter pointing out the danger spots which are common knowledge.

Later Mr. Wilson and Mr. Johnson had further conversation in Mr. Johnson's office after Dr. Allen excused himself to attend the meeting with Mr. Max Milliken. In this conversation it was brought out that the American Legion is very much on the fence with respect to the new International Veterans Organization. AMVETS and AVC have already affiliated, and Mr. Newcomb of AMVETS has become secretary of the new organization in Paris. Mr. Wilson said that he thought that the Legion probably could not, with good conscience, associate itself with such an organization under its charter and by-laws but he was not too positive on this point. He said that he had been advised that the success or failure of the new organization might rest on Legion affiliation. I received the impression that the matter is being actively discussed within the Legion at this time. He expressed considerable curiosity as to the source of financing of the new organization. He said he knew that there was an application pending with the Ford Foundation for a grant but there has been no open financing revealed. This matter is also disturbing the Legion.

Mr. Wilson will return to town in the middle of the week starting April 28 and has expressed an interest in seeing other members of the staff. At that time I will arrange introductions with Messrs. Barnes and Norberg.

PSB:E/E:CEJohnson:mcd
4/25/52

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